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INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ
United Kingdom

URGENT ACTION

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Further information on UA 72/87 (ASA 21/11/87 12 March 1987) - Torture

INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR: Vicente DE SOUSA

Amnesty International has learned that Vicente de Sousa has been released. Vicente de Sousa had been a health worker at the church of Our Lady of Fatima in Comoro, Dili, where, as a former nurse, he had helped by giving injections and other medical treatment. In December 1986 a statue of the Virgin Mary in that church was destroyed. While local residents believed that the Indonesian army were responsible for this incident, the Indonesian army accused Vicente de Sousa of the desecration and subsequently detained him.

Vicente de Sousa was reportedly arrested by personnel from the local district military command (KODIM) and was taken to the intelligence branch (KOTIS) of the regional military command for interrogation, where, according to reports, he was badly beaten and kept in a tank of water for twenty four hours. Despite suffering from active malaria, he was reported to have been given no medical treatment during his time in detention.

No further action is required. Thank you for sending appeals.

Note: The original Urgent Action was telexed to five sections for action (Australia, FRG, Japan, Portugal and Venezuela). This is for your information only.

Telephone 01-833 1771 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for *fair and prompt trials* for *all political prisoners* and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of *all prisoners*.

In a communique issued in Lisbon, Fretilin said its forces had killed at least 162 Indonesian soldiers since November in East Timor. Fretilin said the Indonesian Army had called off in April a major anti-Fretilin operation codenamed Operasi Kikis (Operation Extermination, designed among other things to capture and/or kill the major guerrilla field commanders). During the 7 month long operation, Fretilin said at least 23 villagers had been killed in (Indonesian Army) reprisals at Iliomar and Abafalo in the northeastern part of the island. Fretilin also accused the Army of torturing "two former leaders of political groups" suspected of supporting Fretilin, but provided no names. (AG)

↘ Agence France Presse